

## Message Text

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14

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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R 111000Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4953

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0165

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TS, LU

SUBJ: U.S./EC PRESIDENCY DIALOGUE - MIDDLE EAST

1. MFA SECRETARY GENERAL PIERRE WURTH CALLED IN DCM ON FEBRUARY 10 TO DISCUSS TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER HABIB CHATTY'S VISIT TO LUXEMBOURG FEBRUARY 6 AND 7 (SEPTTEL). DURING CONVERSATION WURTH SAID THAT PRIME MINISTER THORN, AS PRESIDENT OF THE EEC BUT NOT REPEAT NOT IN THE NAME OF THE NINE, WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SECRETARY KISSINGER'S CANDID VIEWS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EEC CONTRIBUTION TO MIDDLE EAST PEACE. WURTH EXPLAINED THAT CHATTY HAD ARGUED FORCIBLY WITH THORN THAT THE TIME HAS COME FOR EUROPE TO PLAY A LARGER ROLE. CHATTY CONTENDED THAT ARAFAT IS A MODERATE WHO CAN ONLY WITHSTAND PRESSURE FROM EXTREMISTS AND MAINTAIN LEADERSHIP OF THE PLO AS LONG AS THERE IS SOME MOVEMENT TOWARDS SOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. IF ARAFAT GOES, THE PLO WILL BE EVEN MORE RADICALIZED THAN AT PRESENT AND THE WHOLE ARAB WORLD COULD BE FORCED TO DRAW BACK FROM THE MODERATE STANCE THAT WAS IN EVIDENCE AT THE MIDDLE EAST SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE WHERE, CHATTY CONTENDED, ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST HAD BEEN IMPLICITLY ACKNOWLEDGED. CHATTY EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT PEACE EFFORTS WILL BOG DOWN DURING THE NEXT YEAR BECAUSE THE UNITED STATES WILL BE UNABLE TO PROVIDE FORCEFUL, SUSTAINED LEADERSHIP IN THE MIDST OF A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. IN THIS SITUATION, HE ARGUED THAT BY MAKING SOME POLITICAL GESTURE TOWARD THE PLO THE NINE COULD PROVIDE JUST THE SORT OF MOMENTUM  
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ESSENTIAL TO KEEP PRESENT POLITICAL BALANCES INTACT

DURING THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS.

2. COMMENT: WURTH EMPHASIZED THAT THORN IS UNWAVERING IN HIS COMMITMENT THAT THE NINE SHOULD DO NOTHING WHICH WOULD IN ANY WAY HINDER OR CREATE DIFFICULTIES FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER IN HIS MIDDLE EAST PEACE-KEEPING EFFORTS. FOR THAT REASON THE EEC WILL BE ADAMANT IN REFUSING TO WIDEN THE SCOPE OF THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE TO INCLUDE POLITICAL QUESTIONS. THORN WOULD, HOWEVER, APPRECIATE THE SECRETARY'S REACTION TO CHATTY'S ANALYSIS AND WOULD PARTICULARLY BE INTERESTED IN THE SECRETARY'S VIEW ON WHETHER AN EEC GESTURE TOWARDS THE PLO WOULD IN ANY CONCEIVABLE WAY BE HELPFUL. FARKAS

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## Message Attributes

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